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B₂ system or provider logo 2015, a video barker 2020 (and associated audio barker), a program time indicator 2025, a channel number indicator 2033, a channel identifier (text or logo) 2035, a pair of channel display decrement objects 2040a and 2040b, a pair of channel display increment objects 2045a and 2045b, a temporal increment object 2048, a temporal decrement object 2047, a program grid 2050 and a scrolling promotional banner 2055. The interactive program guide display 2000 is displayed on a television screen or other video presentation device in, e.g., the home of a subscriber to a cable television or other information distribution system utilizing the interactive electronic program guide.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 42, line 12, with the following amended paragraph:

B₃ Audio source 2110A provides an audio information stream, illustratively an audio information stream associated with the audio visual barker 2020 of the interactive program guide display 2000 of FIG. 20. The audio information stream is coupled to an audio encoder 2120A, where it is encoded into a standard compressed audio format, such as Dolby AC3 or another appropriate format. The encoded audio stream A is coupled to each of the transport multiplexer units 2130-1 through 2130-N.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 43, line 24, with the following amended paragraph:

B₄ A database 2102 provides program guide information to a plurality of video sources 2110V1 through 2110VN. Each of the plurality of video sources 2110V1 through 2110VN is associated with, illustratively, ten channels (i.e., AMC, Fox, HBO and the like). Each of the ten channels provides different programming material at different times of the day as denoted by programming grid 2050 in the interactive electronic program guide display 2000 of FIG. 20. Specifically, since the displayed portion of the programming grid 2050 comprises a 1.5 hour time interval, it is necessary to associate 16 (24 divided by 1.5) video streams with each ten channel block for each 24 hour period. That is, a first of the 16 video streams associated with the ten channel block is

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B4 used to identify programming material from 12:00 AM through 1:30 AM, a second stream is used to identify programming material from 1:30 AM through 3:00 AM and so on. Thus, video source 1 (2110V1) provides 16 video information stream to video encoder 1 (2120V1), wherein each of the 16 video information streams includes program identification information for channels 1-10 for each of the 16 1.5 hour time intervals. That is, each of the 16 video streams is capable of providing the video layer used in electronic program guide display 2000 of FIG. 20 for a respective 1.5 hour time period.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 44, line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

B5 Included within the program guide display 2000 is, of course, the video barker 2020. Associated with the video barker 2020 is the audio stream A produced by audio source 2110A and encoded by audio encoder 2120A. The 16 video streams produced by video encoder 2120V1, the audio stream produced by audio encoder 2120A, and a reference clock CL produced by a clock source 2105 are coupled to a first transport multiplexer 2130-1. Similarly, 16 video information streams representing 24 hours of programming data for channels 11 through 20 are produced by a second video source 2110V2, and coupled to a second video encoder 2120V2. The 16 encoded video streams V2 produced by second video encoder 2120V2 are coupled to a second transport multiplexer 2130-2 along with the audio stream A and clock stream CL. Similarly, the Nth video source 2110VA produces 16 video information streams associated with a 24 hour programming period for the N-9 through Nth channels in the system. The 16 video information streams produced by the Nth video stream 2110VN are coupled to an Nth video encoder 2120VN where they are encoded. The Nth group of 16 encoded video information streams VN is then coupled to an Nth transport multiplexer 2130-N, along with the audio stream A produced by audio encoder 2120A and the clock signal CL produced by clock source 2105.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 45, line 18, with the following amended paragraph:

B₄
It is important to note that, while the transport multiplexing function is depicted as being performed by a plurality of transport multiplexers 2130-1 through 2130-N, the transport multiplexing function may also be performed using a single transport multiplexer. Additionally, while the IF modulation function is depicted as being performed by a plurality of IF modulators 2140-1 through 2140-N, the IF modulation function may also be performed using a single IF modulator. The main constraint placed upon the IF modulation function relates to the available bandwidth within the forward channel FC. That is, since each IF modulated signal IF1 through IF-N is capable of carrying data at a maximum bitrate (e.g., 27Mbps in a 64 QAM modulation scheme), the total data rate of the transport stream(s) within the IF modulated signal cannot exceed the available bandwidth. Thus, in the case where very high data rate streams are transport encoded, it may be necessary to use several IF modulators to produce a corresponding several IF modulated signals for transmission via the forward channel FC.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 46, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

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A control and applet source 2110D provides control information and applet data information (i.e., subscriber side programs provided by the server) to a packetizer 2120D, illustratively an MPEG2 packetizer producing an auxiliary data stream DATA. The auxiliary data stream DATA is coupled to RF modulator 2150 and, optionally, each of the transport multiplexers 2130-1 through 2130-N. In the case of the auxiliary data stream DATA being coupled to each of the transport multiplexers, the resulting multiplexed transport streams T1 through TN will each include the control and applet data such that retrieval of any one of the multiplexed transport streams from the forward channel by a set top terminal will yield control data and applet data sufficient to run any appropriate subscriber side programs.